

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1278

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PONTA DELGADA 00354

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CCMS,ENGR,PINT,PD

SUBJECT: DEMONSTRATION AT CCMS SMALL GEOTHERMAL POWER PLANTS
WORKSHOP IN AZORES

1. NIGHT OF SEPTEMBER 11 SEVERAL HUNDRED PEOPLE
DEMONSTRATED AT SITE OF CCMS GEOTHERMAL CONFERENCE IN
FAVOR OF ESTABLISHMENT GEOTHERMAL LABORATORY IN AZORES.
CROWD WANTED MEMBERS OF PORTUGUESE DELEGATION FROM LISBON
TO ASSURE THEM THAT LABORATORY WOULD BE CREATED IN AZORES,
WHICH DELEGATION MEMBERS COULD NOT DO. HOWEVER, MEMBERS
PORTUGUESE DELEGATION FROM AZORES DID TELL CROWD THAT AN
EARTH SCIENCES INSTITUTE WOULD BE CREATED. CROWD DISPERSED
WHEN ASKED IN FRIENDLY MANNER. DEMONSTRATION WAS
APPARENTLY ORGANIZED BY FLA AND LOCAL PPD.

2. QUESTION OF GEOTHERMAL LABORATORY WHICH FAVORED BY
AZOREANS INTERESTED IN ENERGY HAS BECOME POLITICAL
ISSUE. GOP HAS NOT APPROVED LABORATORY. AZOREAN MEMBERS OF
PORTUGUESE DELEGATION GOT AZOREAN JUNTA REGIONAL TO APPROVE
CREATION OF EARTH SCIENCE INSTITUTE WITH SMALL BUDGET IN
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HOPE THAT LABORATORY COULD BE ESTABLISHED UNDER INSTITUTE.

NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE YET ON LABORATORY, BUT DISCUSSIONS WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 15 BETWEEN JUNTA REGIONAL AND AZOREANS PUSHING FOR LABORATORY SHOULD CLARIFY SITUATION. MANY HOPE THAT INSTITUTE COULD BE NUCLEUS OF EVENTUAL UNIVERSITY LEVEL INSTITUTE, A LONGSTANDING AZOREAN DREAM. JUNTA REGIONAL MEMBER IN CHARGE OF SCIENCE AND EDUCATION, HOWEVER, BELIEVES LIMITED RESOURCES SHOULD FIRST BE APPLIED TO PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION. HE ALSO BELIEVES JUNTA MAY HAVE BEEN MISLED BY INTERESTS PUSHING FOR LABORATORY AND THAT SEPARATISTS ARE USING LABORATORY ISSUE TO FAN AZOREAN-GOP FRICTION.

3. COMMENT. GEOTHERMAL DEMONSTRATION IS FIRST INSTANCE OF FLA ORGANIZING DEMONSTRATION ON ISSUE WHICH DOES NOT HAVE MASS APPEAL. SEPARATIST WERE OBVIOUSLY IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH CONFERENCE DEVELOPMENTS AND USED LABORATORY ISSUE TO HIGHLIGHT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN LBC AND AZOREANS. FLA INITIATING POLICY OF USING EVERY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AZOREAN JUNTA REGIONAL AND GOP TO KEEP IDEA OF INDEPENDENCE IN PUBLIC EYE. JUNTA REGIONAL'S DECISION TO CREATE EARTH SCIENCES INSTITUTE IS FIRST PUBLIC EXAMPLE OF JUNTA'S INTERPRETING ITS MANDATE IN BROADEST DECREE LAW ESTABLISHING JUNTA IS VERY VAGUE BUT JUNTA HAS BEGUN ON ITS OWN TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT DECISIONS, DECISION, FORMALLY MADE IN LISBON, WITHOUT SPECIFIC DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY FROM LISBON. IN DOING SO, IT IS CREATING A SIGNIFICANT DEGREE OF AUTONOMY FOR AZORES. PFEIFLE

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